

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 12 December 1991

*The week in statistics ...*

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## Economy flat in September quarter

The three detailed measures of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) together indicate that the economy remained weak in the September quarter 1991.

The average of the three measures, GDP(A) showed zero growth in the quarter in seasonally adjusted constant price terms. However, the trend estimate for GDP(A) fell by 0.3 per cent — its fifth successive decline.

Historically, the income-based estimate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP(I)) — which declined by 0.3 per cent in the quarter — has been the most commonly used measure of economic growth. However, analysis in the three years since the production-based measure (GDP(P)) was first published indicates that GDP(A) is a smoother and probably more reliable indicator of short-term movements.

In the September quarter, GDP(P) fell by 0.3 per cent, while the third estimate based on expenditure (GDP(E)) rose by 0.5 per cent. (Unless otherwise indicated, everything in this article relates to seasonally adjusted constant price estimates.)

### MAIN INCOME-BASED NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AGGREGATES SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1991

Seasonally adjusted estimates at average 1984-85 prices  
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Final consumption expenditure —		
Private	0.8	1.3
Government	3.5	3.2
Gross fixed capital expenditure	-0.7	-11.3
Gross national expenditure	-0.6	-4.9
Exports of goods and services	4.5	14.8
Imports of goods and services	3.4	-1.2
Gross domestic product (GDP(I))	-0.3	-1.9
Gross farm product	-16.1	-10.4
Gross non-farm product	0.4	-1.6

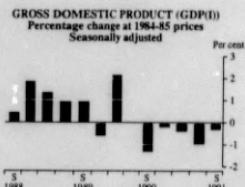
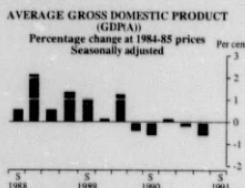
### Income-based GDP — down 0.3 per cent

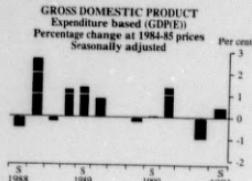
The difference between GDP(I) and GDP(E) is represented by the statistical discrepancy. In September quarter 1991 the statistical discrepancy made a negative contribution to growth in GDP(I) of -0.8 percentage points.

### Expenditure-based GDP — up 0.5 per cent

Major features of the GDP(E) expenditure aggregates this quarter include modest growth in private final consumption expenditure; a further fall in private gross fixed capital expenditure; a significant rundown in private non-farm stocks; a rundown in public marketing authority stocks; and higher exports and imports.

*Continued ...*





Private final consumption expenditure continued to grow in September quarter 1991 with an increase of 0.8 per cent, following a similar increase in June quarter. Reasonably strong growth was recorded for some retail items and air travel, but this growth was partially offset by declines for financial services, gas, electricity and fuel, and purchases and operation of motor vehicles.

Private gross fixed capital expenditure declined by 1.0 per cent in September quarter, the eighth fall in this component over the last nine quarters. It is now 24.5 per cent below the peak in private investment in June quarter 1989. Public gross fixed capital expenditure remained at the same level as in June quarter.

Private non-farm stocks declined by \$741 million in September quarter following a decline of \$36 million in June quarter 1991. Consequently, private non-farm stocks made a significant negative contribution to growth in GDP in the September quarter of -1.1 percentage points. The stocks to sales ratio fell to a record low of 0.541 compared with 0.558 in June quarter 1991.

Public marketing authority stocks declined by \$289 million in September quarter following increases during the previous eight quarters which had added almost \$2.9 thousand million to the level of public marketing authority stocks.

Farm stocks rose by \$63 million in September quarter following a decline of \$346 million in June quarter. Consequently, farm stocks made a positive contribution to growth in GDP in September quarter of 0.6 percentage points.

Exports of goods and services rose 4.5 per cent in the September quarter making a positive contribution to growth in GDP of 1.0 percentage points. Major contributions to this increase came from gold, wool, sugar and coal. Imports of goods and services largely offset the contribution from exports by growing 3.4 per cent in September quarter, thereby making a negative contribution to growth in GDP of 0.7 percentage points. Significant increases were recorded for fuels and other manufactured goods.

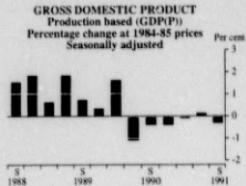
Initial estimates show that Australia's terms of trade fell 0.7 per cent in September quarter to a level 10.1 per cent below the peak reached in March quarter 1989.

### Production-based GDP — down 0.3 per cent

Production-based gross domestic product, GDP(P), declined by 0.3 per cent in the September quarter 1991 — the same as GDP(I). The decline follows a modest increase of 0.2 per cent in the June quarter 1991, after four consecutive quarters of declining activity. The trend estimate for the September quarter was flat and followed two quarters of little or no change.

The farm sector was the major cause of the decline in GDP(P) for the September quarter. The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry (which is dominated by the farm sector) declined by 15.2 per cent, with the fall being widespread throughout the division. Excluding this industry division from GDP(P) provides a reasonable indication of production-based activity in the non-farm sector; it grew by 0.3 per cent in the September quarter.

*Continued ...*



Other industries contributing to the decline in the September quarter were:

- construction (- 3.8%), attributable to falls in all sectors other than new dwelling construction. The trend estimates for this industry have now declined for eight consecutive quarters.
- mining (- 1.8%), due predominantly to cutbacks in coal production.

The two most noteworthy industry divisions making a positive contribution to GDP(P) in the September quarter were:

- transport and storage — growth of 5.2 per cent, the strongest of any industry division. (This followed the largest decline of any industry division in the previous quarter.) Very strong growth in air transport (of over 12%) was the major contributor, while only rail transport fell.
- manufacturing production — modest growth of 0.9 per cent after more than a year of declining activity. The most notable improvement within this industry division appeared for transport equipment which, after contracting for five consecutive quarters, increased by 3.3 per cent. The textiles subdivision recorded the largest decline (- 7.8%). The trend estimates for manufacturing are still declining, but at a diminishing rate.

Trend estimates of market sector labour productivity (i.e. constant price gross product for the market sector per hour worked) grew by 1.2 per cent in the September quarter, following growth of 1.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent in the two previous quarters. Since September quarter 1990, the index has grown by 3.8 per cent, reflecting the much stronger decline in labour input than in output.

**GROSS PRODUCT, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1991**  
Seasonally adjusted estimates at average 1984-85 prices

	Percentage change from		
	Gross product (\$ million)	Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Manufacturing	10,854	0.9	- 3.4
Wholesale and retail	10,026	0.1	0.4
Community services	8,217	1.3	5.5
Finance, property and business services	7,566	- 0.8	- 1.2
Mining	5,076	- 1.8	- 1.1
Construction	3,867	- 3.8	- 10.1
Transport and storage	3,301	5.2	- 3.6
Recreation, personal and other services	2,539	0.5	- 0.4
Electricity, gas and water	2,453	0.7	2.2
Public administration and defence	2,373	- 0.2	1.8
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2,324	- 15.2	- 9.9
Communication	1,956	2.7	9.3
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,830	1.3	4.6
<i>Gross domestic product (GDP(P))</i>	<i>65,382</i>	<i>- 0.3</i>	<i>- 0.6</i>

For further information, order the publications Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure (5206.0), or contact Paul Curran on (06) 252 6708 and Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked (5222.0), or contact Alan Tryde on (06) 252 6801.

## Stocks fall but manufacturers' sales recover

**CHANGE IN TOTAL STOCKS ALL INDUSTRIES**  
Seasonally adjusted average 1984-85 prices



The value of stocks held by private businesses fell by almost 2 per cent between 30 June and 30 September 1991 after accounting for seasonal influences and price changes. This is the sixth consecutive quarterly fall, although the falls in the March and June quarters 1991 were only 0.1 and 0.4 per cent respectively.

Stock levels at 30 September 1991 are now 3.1 per cent below the level at 30 September 1990. During the year, mining stocks have risen moderately but all other major industry groups fell.

### STOCKS OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES

30 SEPTEMBER 1991

Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices

Industry	Stock level \$m	Percentage change since	
		30 June 1991	30 September 1990
Mining	2,571	-1.7	4.6
Manufacturing	16,170	-1.8	-4.0
Wholesale	12,501	-2.7	-3.6
Retail	9,812	-0.8	-2.5
Other	321	-10.1	-13.7
<i>Total</i>	41,375	-1.9	-3.1

Manufacturers' sales in the September quarter 1991 were estimated to be \$36,453 million at current prices. This translates to a rise of 2.8 per cent over the June quarter in seasonally adjusted constant price terms. The rise follows five successive quarterly falls in this series and sales are still almost 1 per cent below the level of September quarter 1990.

In the twelve months to 30 September 1991, manufacturers' sales in constant price terms were 3.7 per cent lower than for the year to September 1990. The only significant increases over the year were in textiles which rose by 5.9 per cent and food, beverages and tobacco which rose 5.0 per cent. The most significant decreases were in non metallic mineral products and transport equipment, both of which fell by 15.9 per cent.

Manufacturers' expected sales, in current price terms, for the three months to December 1991 were reported as \$37,652 million which is 3.3 per cent above sales for September quarter 1991 but would represent only a very small rise if seasonally adjusted. With expected sales for the six months to June 1992 reported as \$72,988 million, the total sales for 1991-92 are now expected to be \$147,093 million which is 3.5 per cent above actual sales for 1990-91.

*For further information, order the publication Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Australia (5629.0), or contact Sharon Pech on (06) 252 6074.*

## Births at 18-year high in 1990



The number of births registered in Australia in 1990 was 262,648 which represents a 5 per cent increase on 1989 registrations (250,853). This is the highest number of annual registrations of births recorded since 1972 (264,969). The crude birth rate based on registrations in 1990 rose 3.3 per cent to 15.4 per 1,000 population from 14.9 in 1989, the first rise since 1985.

The total fertility rate based on the number of births registered in 1990 rose to 1,913 births per 1,000 women. This is 3.6 per cent higher than in 1989 (1,846) and is the highest rate recorded since 1983. (The total fertility rate is the number of children 1,000 women would bear in their lifetime at the current year's birth rates for the various age groups of women.)

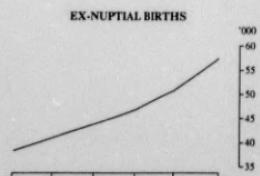
However, part of this 3.6 per cent increase was due to the reduction in the time lag in registration in 1990. Estimates based on year of occurrence show that the total fertility rate rose from about 1,850 per 1,000 women in 1989 to 1,890 in 1990, an increase of about 2.0 per cent.

The median age of mothers at the birth of their child continues to sustain the increase recorded throughout the 1980s. The median age in 1990 was 28.3 years compared with 28.2 years in 1989 and 26.6 years in 1980.

Between 1961 and 1981, age-specific birth rates dropped considerably for all age groups except those aged 45 to 49 years where there has been little change. Over the last ten years, the most noticeable changes have been the decrease in the birth rates for the 20 to 24 year age group contrasted with increases in the older age groups particularly those aged 30 to 39 years. However, when comparing 1990 with 1989, there have been increases in most age groups, including the 20 to 24 year age group.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES  
Number of births per thousand females

	Age group of mother (years)						45 and over
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	
<i>Annual rates —</i>							
1988	20.2	81.8	137.2	93.4	30.5	4.6	0.2
1989	20.6	78.6	136.2	96.0	32.5	5.0	0.2
1990	22.0	79.6	139.0	101.6	34.7	5.5	0.2

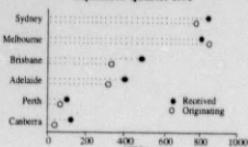


The number of births registered to unmarried women has continued its long term trend of increase. Ex-nuptial births represented 22 per cent of all births registered in 1990 compared with 20 per cent in 1989 and 12 per cent in 1980.

The median age of mothers of ex-nuptial births registered in 1990 was 24.0 years. There were 15,028 registered confinements to teenagers in 1990 (6% of all confinements) and of these, 80 per cent were ex-nuptial. The proportion of ex-nuptial births where the father is acknowledged has continued to rise, from 48 per cent of all ex-nuptial births in 1977 to 77 per cent in 1990.

## Road freight movement increases

**INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT**  
September quarter 1991



Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during September quarter 1991 was 6.6 per cent higher than in June quarter 1991. This increase is the first since September 1990, and is higher than the increases in corresponding quarters in the previous two years.

However, the figures indicate that the amount of freight carried is still nearly 10 per cent below the level in September quarter 1990.

**INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1991**

	<i>Road freight originating</i>		<i>Road freight received</i>	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter
Sydney	779	7.4	847	0.8
Melbourne	854	-6.3	810	2.2
Brisbane	341	12.7	481	12.4
Adelaide	327	5.2	404	12.8
Perth	65	4.2	96	8.8
Canberra	38	17.1	118	19.0
Other	992	4.7	641	1.9
<i>Total</i>	3,397	6.6	3,397	6.6

For further information, order the publication *Interstate Road Freight Movement, Australia (9214.0)*, or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

## Record chicken slaughterings

Monthly chicken slaughterings reached an all time high of 27.5 million in October 1991. For the four months ended October 1991, chicken slaughterings, at more than 99 million, were 4.1 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1990. Chicken meat produced rose by a more substantial 9.1 per cent for the four months ended October 1991 compared with the same period for 1990.

Red meat production rose in all categories except calves in October 1991. However for the four months ended October 1991, production fell 1.5 per cent compared with the same period of 1990.

Receipts of taxable wool by brokers and dealers fell 20.2 per cent for the four months ended October 1991 compared with the same period in 1990. Receipts for October 1991 over September 1991 rose 0.2 per cent.

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED**  
**Percentage change**

	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Cattle	9.5	4.2
Pigs	2.5	4.2
Calves	-29.7	-0.3
Sheep	32.6	-2.1
Lambs	15.3	-2.3

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia (7215.0)*, or contact Marion Long on (06) 252 5337.

## Duration of unemployment increasing

The average duration of unemployment has been gradually increasing since January 1991 following a decline since July 1990.

While this feature follows an apparent seasonal pattern, it must also be noted that the averages are strongly influenced by changes in unemployment levels. For instance, marked increases in the number of newly unemployed persons will cause the overall average duration of unemployment to fall. This feature explains the regular fall in the average in the summer months when unemployment is seasonally high.

In the two months to October however, survey results have shown that overall, average duration of unemployment has been higher than the corresponding statistics twelve months earlier (see table below). These two most recent results broke a sequence of 27 months in which the comparison with the same month in the previous year showed a lower average duration of unemployment (reflecting the rising level of unemployment during most of this period).

AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT  
Weeks

	October 1990	October 1991
Males	43.7	50.1
Females	32.5	38.4
Persons	39.0	45.6

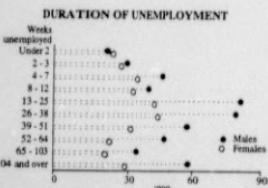
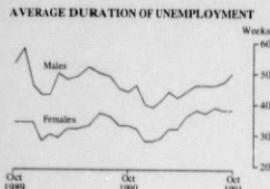
These findings are among the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED  
Proportion of the unemployed  
Per cent

	October 1990	October 1991
Males	22.5	28.3
Females	16.8	23.2
Persons	20.1	26.3

The survey shows that the number of long term unemployed (i.e. persons unemployed for 52 weeks or more) has also been increasing and in October 1991 stood at 211,100 compared with 122,200 one year earlier. Of these persons:

- 50 per cent were former workers whose last full-time job was more than two years ago;
- 40 per cent had held a full-time job (lasting at least two weeks) between 12 and 24 months ago;
- 8 per cent were still looking for their first full-time job;
- 45 per cent were aged 35 years or older; and
- 66 per cent were males.

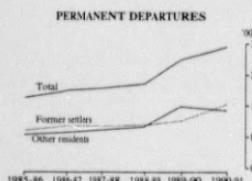


Other details on the duration of unemployment include:

- The average duration of unemployment for unemployed 15-19 year old males who left school in 1990 was 28.6 weeks while for females in the same age group it was 23.6 weeks.
- For unemployed married males the average duration of unemployment was 55.3 weeks, compared with 46.1 for those not married. For married and not married females the averages were 39.8 and 37.4 weeks respectively.

*For further information about these statistics or the availability of other data from the Labour Force Survey, contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.*

## More change in our migrant mix as permanent departures increase

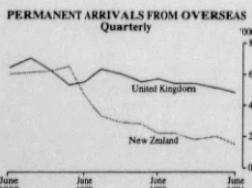


The number of permanent departures from Australia in 1990-91, at 31,130 was 12 per cent higher than in 1989-90 (27,860), while the number of settlers arriving (121,690) was about the same as in 1989-90 (121,230).

Some 53 per cent of permanent departures in 1990-91 were departures of former settlers. Permanent departures to New Zealand (11,820), the United Kingdom (6,330) and the United States of America (2,460) which accounted for 66 per cent of all permanent departures, were up 8 per cent, 6 per cent and 11 per cent respectively compared with 1989-90. This continues the trend of increase in permanent departures since the mid 1980s.

### PERMANENT DEPARTURES

Country of future residence	Number of permanent departures	Percentage change on previous year
New Zealand	11,820	8
United Kingdom	6,330	6
United States of America	2,460	11
<i>Total</i>	<i>31,130</i>	<i>12</i>



Although the number of settler arrivals in 1990-91 remained at the same level as in 1989-90 the relative contribution from the various source countries has continued to change.

The United Kingdom remained the most important source country of immigrants, contributing 17 per cent (20,750) of all settler arrivals, but this proportion has declined from 19 per cent in 1989-90. Immigration of persons born in New Zealand also declined from 9 per cent of total (11,170) in 1989-90 to 6 per cent (7,480) in 1990-91.

Arrivals of settlers born in Hong Kong increased by 68 per cent, from 8,050 in 1989-90 to 13,540 in 1990-91. Hong Kong became the second most important source country of immigrants in 1990-91, contributing 11 per cent of all settler arrivals. Vietnam continued to be an important source country. The number of arrivals of settlers born in Vietnam was 13,240 (11% of total) in 1990-91, an increase of 19 per cent compared with 1989-90.

*For further information, order the publication Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3402.0), or contact Robert Chibnall on (06) 252 6671.*

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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**Statistics Weekly**  
12 December 1991

## All the week's releases: 4 to 10 December

### General

- Publications Issued in November 1991 (1102.0; \$5.50)
- Publications Advice, 6 December 1991 (1105.0; free)
- Publications Advice, 10 December 1991 (1105.0; free)
- Statistics Weekly, 5 December 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)
- NIF-105 Model Data Base Manual, September Qtr 1991 (Available on Magnetic Tape, Floppy Disk, and Microfiche) (Choice of Priced Packages) (1340.0)
- Economic Indicators, Vic., November 1991 (1307.2; \$6.00)

### Demography

- Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Aust., 1990-91 (3201.0; \$11.50)
- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., September 1991 (3401.0; \$6.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, September Qtr 1991 (5206.0; \$20.00)
- Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, September Qtr 1991 (5222.0; \$9.00)
- Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, September Qtr 1991 (5228.0; \$86.50)
- Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Exports, September Qtr 1991 (5334.0; \$18.00)
- Expenditure on Education, Aust., 1988-89 (5510.0; \$10.00)
- Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales, September Quarter 1991 and Expected Sales to June 1992, Aust., (5629.0; \$10.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

- Transition from Education to Work, Aust., May 1991 (6227.0; \$12.50)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., November 1991 (6410.0; \$5.00)
- The Labour Force, NSW, August 1991 (6201.1; \$14.50)

### Agriculture

- Agricultural Industries, Structure of Operating Units, Aust., 31 March 1990 (7102.0; \$25.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, September 1991 (8358.0; \$10.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, September 1991 (8360.0; \$10.00)
- Building Approvals, NSW, October 1991 (8731.1; \$10.00)
- Building Approvals, Qld, October 1991 (8731.3; \$10.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, September 1991 (8741.5; \$10.00)
- Building Approvals, SA, October 1991 (8731.4; \$10.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, September 1991 (8741.4; \$10.00)
- Tourist Accommodation, NT, September Qtr 1991 (8635.7; \$10.00)

### Transport

- Interstate Road Freight Movement, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (9214.0; \$5.50)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., October 1991 (9303.6; \$5.00)

## Calendar of key releases

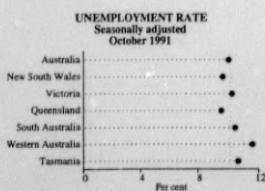
Expected releases over the fortnight to 24 December 1991

### December

- [11] Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, September Quarter 1991, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.00)
- [12] The Labour Force, Australia, November 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)  
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, September Quarter 1991 (8125.0; \$10.00)
- [17] Retail Trade, Australia, October 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)
- [18] Import Price Index, Australia, September Quarter 1991 (6414.0; \$9.00)
- [19] Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, October 1991 (5609.0; \$10.00)  
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, August 1991 (6302.0; \$10.00)  
Export Price Index, Australia, October 1991 (6405.0; \$7.50)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, October 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)
- [20] Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, October 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Australia, November 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
10 December 1991



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (Sept. 91) (trend estimate)	4.4	2.2	3.5	5.0	5.8	3.9	n.a.	10.1	4.0
New motor vehicle registrations (Oct. 91)† (a)	-21.2	-33.4	-16.6	-12.4	-2.5	-10.0	-12.6	12.5	-20.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 91)	3.8	12.8	45.0	-6.7	15.0	-3.6	-29.6	42.3	15.7
Value of total building work done (June qtr 91)	-8.3	-28.6	4.7	-11.4	-27.9	-0.5	39.9	18.1	-13.2
Employed persons (Oct. 91)*	-2.0	-3.9	-0.5	-3.9	-1.9	-2.0	1.9	0.3	-2.4
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91)	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.1	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3
Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (May 91)	3.6	5.2	5.7	6.5	8.1	3.1	5.8	5.6	5.0
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 91)	-1.9	-1.4	7.8	-4.5	-2.2	2.6	-4.6	-7.8	0.1

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

(a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

# The latest ...

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 10 December 1991

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		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product	— current prices — 1984–85 prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473 62,900	94,688 63,396	1.0 – 0.3
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure	— current prices — 1984–85 prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231 4,817	6,475 5,012	– 0.4 0.5
Expected new capital expenditure	"	"	Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices (f) — 1984–85 prices (f)	"	Sept. 91	7,225.8 14,915.5	7,642.4 15,486.9	– 1.8 2.9
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	Oct. 91	42,966	40,584	1.5	– 20.3
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Oct. 91	13,127	11,906	– 2.4	13.3
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	2,046	1,874	15.9	4.2
Value of total building work done	— current prices — 1984–85 prices	"	June qtr 91	6,253 3,963	6,264 3,970	– 5.1 – 4.7
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices — 1984–85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6 – 0.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to Dec. 91	25,305	24,860	2.8	– 0.8
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons (f)	'000	Oct. 91	7,687.8	7,686.4	– 0.2	– 2.4
Unemployment rate † (f)	%	"	9.4	10.1	– 0.1	2.4
Participation rate † (f)	%	"	62.6	63.0	– 0.3	– 0.9
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 91	25.6	25.1	– 2.1	– 46.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	– 1.0	– 12.2
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index	1980–81 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 91	215.7	n.a.	0.6	3.3
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984–85 = 100.0	Sept. 91	118.3	n.a.	– 1.3	– 7.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988–89 = 100.0	Sept. 91	111.1	n.a.	– 0.1	n.a.
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	– 17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Aug. 91	567.50	n.a.	1.2	4.9
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	– 0.85	– 4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.80	n.a.	– 0.50	– 3.55
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Oct. 91	4,385	4,323	– 6.8	1.0
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,702	4,189	– 3.4	3.2
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	– 317	134	– 55.2	– 39.4
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	517	47	– 53.9	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	– 1,790	– 1,298	– 6.7	13.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984–85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	– 0.7	– 4.6
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 91	133,480	n.a.	– 1.6	3.5
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	182,282	n.a.	2.8	7.1
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
SUS	per \$A	Oct. 91	0.7938	n.a.	0.1	– 1.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	60.2	n.a.	– 0.5	2.7
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Sept. 91	197	225	7.4	21.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 12 December 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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